

**Capital Region Workforce Partnership
Consortium Meeting
Minutes for April 30, 2021**

Consortium Members		Alternates	
Chairman – Hon. Angela Kelly-Wiecek , Hanover	x	James Taylor	
Vice Chairman - Hon. Karin Carmack , Powhatan		Ned Smither	
Hon. Patricia Paige , New Kent		Rodney Hathaway	
Hon. James Holland , Chesterfield	x	Dr. James Worsley	x
Hon. Gilbert Smith , Charles City	x	Michelle Johnson	
Hon. Don Sharpe , Goochland	x	Vacant	
Hon. Patricia O'Bannon , Henrico	x	Monica Smith - Callahan	x
Hon. Michael Jones , Richmond		Valaryee Mitchell	x

- I. Special Statement for Electronic Meetings. Mr. Brian Davis read the statement.
- II. Call to Order and Welcome. The meeting was called to order at 9:35 a.m.
- III. Roll Call by Member Name. Ms. Cosby called the roll for attendance.
- IV. Public Comment Period. There were no persons present for public comment.
- V. Approval of the Minutes from March 12, 2021 Meeting. Honorable Gilbert Smith moved to approved the minutes as presented; Honorable Patricia O'Bannon seconded the motion. The motion carried.
- VI. Leveling Up with Adult Education. Presentation by Ms. Heidi Silver-Pacuilla, Ph.D., Adult Education Coordinator, Office of Career, Technical, and Adult Education, Virginia Department of Education

Ms. Silver-Pacuilla provided a brief bio and an overview of adult federal regulations and strategies to support adult learners to attain adult education certification. Adult education is guided by federal regulations, Title II Act. It provides for entities to serve adults above compulsory school age.

Points of Interests

- Works with local school divisions and nonprofits
- Students can be served up to entering college
- Working with parents to become partners in kid's education to better understand the school system; show them how to read report cards, speak with teachers, etc.
- Brief overview of U.S. skills map comparisons by state. 288,000 people have a high school diploma or less. The most vulnerable are those without a diploma
- Several initiatives to address adult education include the Virginia Ready Initiative offering completion awards for people that complete credential and connects them with jobs; GO Virginia offered hospitality opportunity to support training and new job board for restaurants.

Network2Work program supports individuals with wraparound services for employment to become more stable.

- Local area program, Region 15, reduced its tuition fee, is about \$100 or less. Some areas also give rebates. Economic Equity Grants, Title 1 grants, provided opportunities to work across partnerships.

Ms. Silver-Pacuilla noted that Manassas is using gift cards as an incentive to recognize participants' credential achievements. The cards are earmarked to be spent at Manassas businesses only. The workforce and the city underwrites this initiative.

Brian commented that ChamberRVA may be an option to support adult education initiatives. Another incentive to lessen the barrier is through supportive technology; either computers and/or broadband service. Some areas provide support through loaner laptops or hotspots to help students.

In response to questions regarding how to address people with diploma that lack necessary skills to move forward. Ms. Silver-Pacuilla shared that short term integrated programs are available to brush up on academics to prepare for work.

Follow-up: Ideas to address the percentage of those below a high school diploma. A link to data will be forwarded to the Board.

VII. Action Items

A. Revisions to the elected official's consortium agreement

The Agreement identifies how CLEO's govern the workforce system. The item presented for action concerns staggering term limits for the workforce development board.

Term limits will be set as follows: one-third membership, 1 year term limit; one-third, 2 year limit; and one-third, 3 year limit. The staggering terms support limited member turnover.

Honorable James Holland moved to approve the workforce board's term limited as presented; Mrs. O'Bannon seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Discussion Item - Removing the term 'vote weighting' in favor of one jurisdiction, one vote.

When Local Workforce Area 9 and the City of Richmond joined, Dr. Basher introduced the weighted voted concept based on four factors: credits and weighted factor for population, poverty level, citizens with a disability and unemployment.

In 2017, the CLEO's changed the weighted methodology based on share of federal funding attributable to each jurisdiction. This method is simpler to calculate and can be annualized every year.

Brian noted that the CLEO's could opt to eliminate weighted voting.

Members asked for additional information on options on how weights would be distributed. A matrix of the distribution would also be helpful.

B. Workforce Development Board member appointments and certification

The workforce development board is certified every two years. The current Board certification expires 2021. By July 1st, three things are to be considered; the board composition requirement; performance outcomes, and evidence of sound fiscal integrity.

The State is currently reviewing the composition of the Board. The majority of the Board, 51% must be represented by the business community, 20% from organized labor/apprenticeship/CBO, also economic development, education, and other required representatives.

New Member. One new Board member nomination is presented for consideration, Mr. Thomas Hayden. Mr. Hayden's suggested term is two years. Consideration of other industry areas and/or companies to recruit members was suggested in logistics and construction/trades.

Ms. Kelly-Wiecek called for questions; there were none. Mr. Holland moved to certify the board as presented and accept the nomination of Thomas Hayden; Mrs. O'Bannon seconded the motion. The motion carried.

VIII. Director's report

- Unemployment. A waiver has been in place for the past year which allowed recipients to forego providing two documented job searches in order to receive benefits. The additional \$378 benefit expires in September.
- FY21 federal funding levels by State issued. Adult funding increased by 19% and 13% increase in dislocated worker funding. The State is preparing formulas for the 14 workforce areas.
- Workforce Center certifications. Three workforce development board members served as the certification team. They are doing desk reviews and will make unannounced site visits to the centers in May. A checklist will be provided to review. A recommendation to the full Board will be prepared and forwarded to the CLEO's. Interviews of 20% of staff will be incorporated as well as an online survey.
- A virtual job fair is scheduled on May 26.
- Network2Work Pilot launches in June.
- Spending Status. Old money, \$194,510, from the prior year must be spent by June 30. Rent and service provider contracts will be paid. If the old money is not spent, it is returned to the state. Current year's money has two years of life. Spending has been slower than usual due to the unique conditions created by COVID and the federal stimulus efforts. There are 15 months left to spend these funds.
- Unemployment Data. Workforce area is sitting at 5% as a region. This is about double from last year.

Key Unemployment Data Points for CapitalRegion

	Initial Claims Filed 1/1/21 - 4/17/21	People filing continued claims filed week ending 4/17/21	Feb. 2021 Official Unemployment Rate/People	Feb. 2020 rate by comparison
Charles City	195	51	6.1% (211)	3%
Chesterfield	5,457	1,776	5% (8,190)	2.4%
Goochland	251	64	4.2% (448)	2.3%
Hanover	1,276	462	4% (2,252)	2.1%
Henrico	5,226	1,831	5.4% (9,405)	2.4%
New Kent	271	94	4% (287)	2%
Powhatan	316	81	4% (543)	2.4%
Richmond	12,703	3,043	7.7% (8,830)	2.9%
Region	25,685	7,402	5% (30,166)	2.4%

- Workforce Center Visits. The Chesterfield workforce center had an increase in visitors. This is likely due to closing of the Cary Street center.

Traffic by Jurisdiction			
	Count	% of total	% of in-region
Charles City	38	0.3%	0.3%
Chesterfield	2,359	19%	21%
Goochland	35	0.3%	0.3%
Hanover	372	3%	3.3%
Henrico	3,877	32%	34%
New Kent	35	0.3%	0.3%
Powhatan	75	0.6%	0.7%
Richmond	4,522	37%	40%
Other	907	7%	-
Total	12,220	100%	11,313

Center	July 2020 – March 2021	July 2019 – March 2020
Chesterfield	3,755	3,168
Henrico	6,286	13,508
Richmond	2,159 (Closed Nov – March)	7,283
Total	12,200	23,959

- Starting in June, centers will be open more days and hours
- Out-of-School Youth Presentation. Ms. Krishawn Monroe, CRWP Assistant Director, provided follow-up from last meeting. Currently working with childhood council foundations, youth in cancer remission. Have also partnered with 5Cs Construction company. Ross has enrolled 5 students in the construction program. Eight (8) students are enrolled in the Henrico Career Technical Center’s LPN program.
Performance Outcomes. Overall performance is good. There were some enrollment issues related to COVID. Ross had a \$1 million budget; over half is spent. A plan is now in place to show how funds are being spent on participants. An increase in expenditures will be realized. Krishawn added that serving in-school youth at 25% is a goal.

Ms. Kelly-Wiecek noted that opportunities for vaccinations should be offered. There may be people or employers that want to get vaccinated. Brian added that job search/back to work packet may include needed information.

The next meeting scheduled on June 11, 2021. A quorum is need to advance the budget and contracts.

IX. Chair Angela Kelly-Wiecek adjourned meeting at 11:30 a.m.